



Inspiring kaitiakitanga for our rivers, harbours and coasts.

# ANNUAL REPORT JULY 2020 – JUNE 2021

[www.mountaintoseawellington.org](http://www.mountaintoseawellington.org)

## Our Trust

Another year around the sun - and what a busy year it's been!

With the initiation of our Love Rimurimu (seaweed) Restoration in Te Whanganui-a-Tara and the national expansion of the Freshwater Monitoring training modules to coordinators across Aotearoa we've seen some strong growth in the work of the Trust over the past year.

Other highlights for us have included seeing record numbers at our community snorkel days, the establishment of a new freshwater coordinator role in the Wairarapa, and our inaugural World Ocean Day Quiz

- attended by so many of our amazing volunteers and collaborators. We've also wrapped up three fantastic years of the Whitebait Connection Project - Wellington which has had far-reaching ripples.

Climate change and strengthening our support and collaboration with Te Ao Māori kaupapa are front of mind for us - we work to champion communities and young people to care for their local places - strengthening our connections and kaitiakitanga. This is a learning curve for all of us, but a journey we're on together; moving forward to meet the challenges ahead of us.

***We're proud to share our highlights from the past year, and wish to acknowledge our amazing supporters, collaborators, volunteers, trustees, team and funders who make this mahi possible. Thanks for your support over this time - ki uta ki tai.***



Learning about seaweed species at Community Snorkel events at Taputeranga Marine Reserve.



Year 6 students from schools across Wainuiomata investigate the freshwater creatures that live in the river at a catchment day.

All of our work is supported through our partnership with the national Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust. We are the sole regional providers of their unique education programmes in Te Upoko o te Ika a Maui.



## PROGRAMME ENGAGEMENT:

More than **36,000 people** have taken part in the programmes and projects we've supported since 2008.

## FROM JULY 2020:

**2259 STUDENTS** from **98 classes** and **42 different schools** have taken part in one of our long-term environmental education programmes.  
**OF THAT:**

**1290 STUDENTS**

explored their local marine environment ranging from the Kāpiti and Taputeranga Marine Reserves to the coastlines of Te Awarua o Porirua.

**969 STUDENTS**

took part in our Whitebait Connection programmes in one of their local rivers, streams or wetlands.

**604 PEOPLE**

enjoyed Guided Community Snorkel events in Kāpiti, Taputeranga and Porirua

**OVER 715**

volunteer days were donated by school, community and MTSW volunteers to help support in-field experiences, action projects and restoration endeavours.

**1691**

people took part in our community events, citizen science training programmes and restoration activities.

**AND** more than **49** different community and environmental collaborations have arisen as a result of our collective efforts in the greater Wellington region.

## OUR HIGHLIGHTS

### Love Rimurimu Restoration

Climate change and the impact on our ocean forests is the focus for our Love Rimurimu Restoration project. With our project partners we will begin seaweed restoration trials next year, regenerating areas where these critical habitats have been lost.

A national first, this project has been supported by world-leading experts, and developed a wide range of new resources and experiences for schools and communities.



Investigating growth trials at NIWA with project collaborators



Native giant kōkōpu found during freshwater fish surveys

### Whitebait Connection Project

In the third and final year of the Whitebait Connection Project we've continued to empower community groups to monitor their freshwater restoration actions, with workshops in Porirua and Te Whanganui a Tara.

We've expanded our training programs nationally to help build a network of coordinators who are now supporting community groups across Aotearoa.

Our school education programs have remained a central pou in our freshwater mahi this year, connecting young people to their local freshwater places.

# KAITIAKITANGA – PUTTING KNOWLEDGE INTO ACTION



Field work with Phycologist Dr Roberta D'Archino from NIWA, supporting knowledge needed for seaweed regeneration trials.



Students from Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Ara Whānui, ready to snorkel as part of Love Rimurimu education programmes.

## FRESHWATER CITIZEN SCIENCE

With thanks to funding from the Ministry for the Environment's **Community Environment Fund**, we have worked with many partners over the last 3 years to achieve the following outcomes:

**TRAIN OVER 70 COMMUNITY GROUPS**, landowners and partner organisations in water quality, habitat and freshwater biodiversity monitoring.

Build a **national network of freshwater coordinators** able to support community freshwater monitoring across the country

**3053 HOURS** of community volunteer time given to take action for the environment.

Remove more than **7900L OF PEST PLANTS** from riparian margins

**Maintain 3100m2 of planting sites** through mulching and releasing.

Deliver the national **Whitebait Connection programme to over 100 schools** across the greater Wellington region.

**Plant 7390 native seedlings** along riparian margins and wetlands, providing valuable shade and habitat for native biodiversity.

**INSTALL 16 PASSES** to restore migration pathways for native freshwater fish

**REMOVE 6321L OF RIPARIAN AND STORMWATER RUBBISH**, preventing it from entering waterways and the ocean.



Students with long-fin tuna (eels) in Porirua



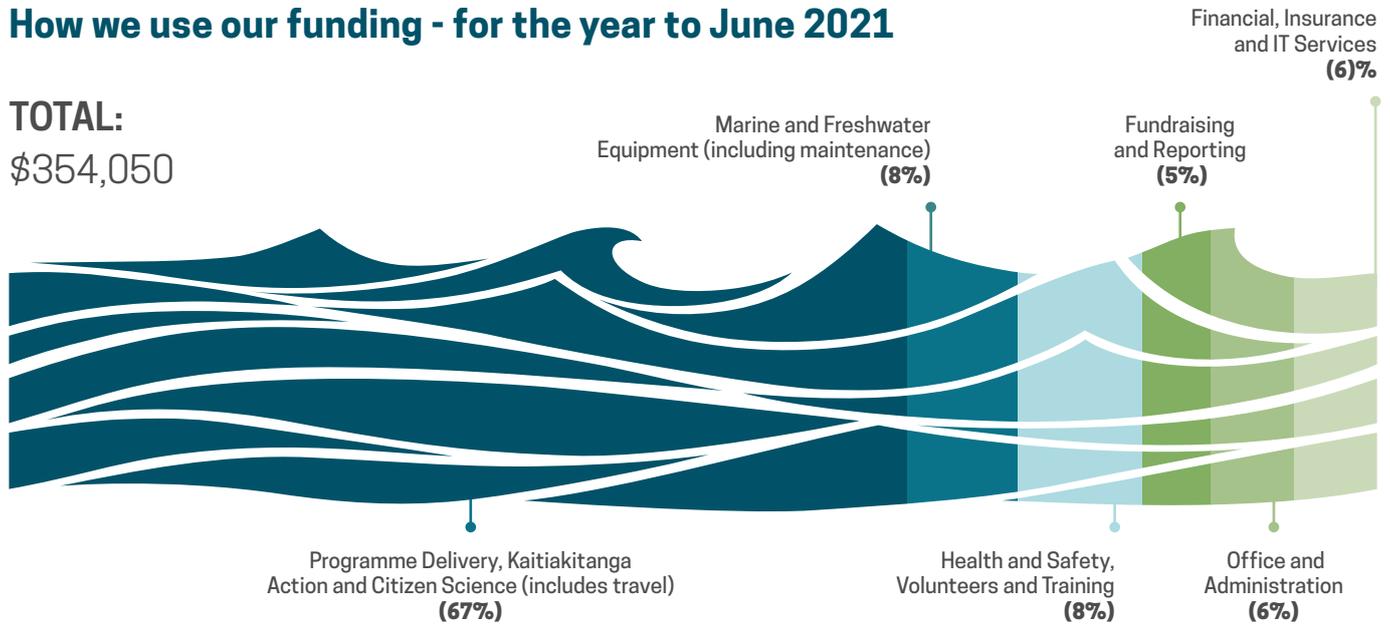
Freshwater biodiversity event



Wairarapa Moana Coordinator - Kara Kenny

# How we use our funding - for the year to June 2021

TOTAL:  
\$354,050



## Thank YOU!

Our work wouldn't be possible without the dedicated delivery team and amazing volunteers who make up our crew. We thank you for everything you do! A special thanks also to our volunteer Trustees who guide our organisation.

To our funders, supporters and collaborators who generously support our work, and inspire our collective mahi - ngā mihi ki a koutou.



Thanks also to the Henderson Trust, Brew'd Island Bay, Southern Cross Garden Bar, Grassroots Trust, NIWA and Victoria University.

## Find out more

Please visit our website at [MountaintoSeaWellington.org](https://MountaintoSeaWellington.org) or follow us at [facebook.com/MountainsToSeaWellington](https://facebook.com/MountainsToSeaWellington). Our full performance report for 2020-21 has now been submitted to the Charities Commission and is available on their website at [www.register.charities.govt.nz/Charity/CC54455](https://www.register.charities.govt.nz/Charity/CC54455)